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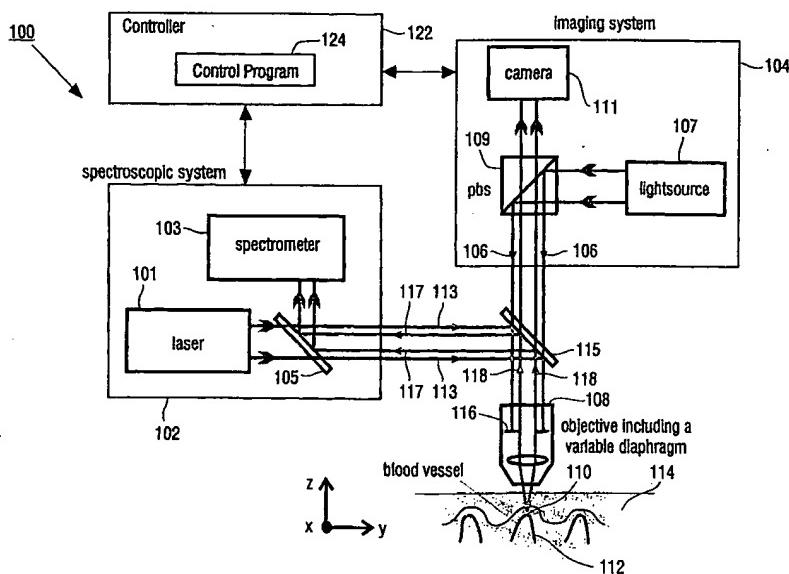
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DETERMINING A PROPERTY OF A FLUID WHICH FLOWS THROUGH A BIOLOGICAL TUBULAR STRUCTURE WITH VARIABLE NUMERICAL APERTURE



(57) Abstract: The present invention provides for an apparatus and a method for determining a property of a fluid which flows through a biological tubular structure, such as blood flowing through a capillary vessel (112) under the skin (114). This enables in vivo non-invasive blood analysis. An objective (108) having a variable numerical aperture (116) is used to enable automatic detection of a blood vessel (112) and to provide a high signal to noise ratio of the return radiation for the purposes of the spectroscopic analysis and to provide a small detection volume that fits completely within the target region.

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